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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the International Educational Development Inc., a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[17 August 1994]

Serbian aggression in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. According to data of the relevant international organizations and governmental institutions in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), there are more than 1,250,000 displaced persons and refugees who have fled the country.

2. The Institute for Health Protection of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides data on the war destruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina in a report covering 31 December 1991, to the last days of July 1994. According to this report, 143,505 persons have been killed, 165,270 persons have been

wounded, of whom 72,842 are critically wounded and 12,000 have been permanently disabled. The mortality rate has risen six times. About 80 per cent of people who have died in that period died as a result of war crimes. Sixty-nine thousand, one hundred and fifty-six civilians have been shot, 12,843 have been garrotted and 2,928 have been strangled, 445 women died as a result of rape, 26,301 have been killed in unidentified ways, 1,951 were frozen to death, 26,175 are missing. Sixteen thousand, six hundred and seventy-six children have been killed or disappeared, and 34,287 children have been wounded, of whom 18,321 are seriously wounded, and 1,820 children are permanently disabled.

3. According to the official records of the Division of Information and Research, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia (dated 1 August 1994), 28,636 citizens of Croatia have been wounded and 7,336 killed (on the basis of reports of commanders of Croatian army units, an additional 1,200 deceased soldiers should be included) as the direct result of aggressive attacks of Yugoslav army and Serbian paramilitary troops. Among these casualties, there were 8,550 wounded civilians (among them 902 children, 3 priests and 29 medical doctors or other members of medical personnel) and 2,669 killed (among them 247 children, 2 priests and 5 medical doctors or other members of medical personnel) while the remaining casualties are represented by members of Croatian defence forces. These data alone point to the unusually high proportion of civilians among the total casualties (one third of all wounded and killed). However these data represent only the minimal number of firmly ascertained casualties (based on medical and autopsy records) and therefore they significantly underestimate the total number of casualties. The following data represent the estimation of additional casualties and they also point out clearly that the proportion of civilian casualties is definitively much higher.

4. According to a number of well-documented independent testimonies of survivors and eye-witnesses, at least 1,000 Croatian civilians (mostly elderly people over 60 years of age) were massacred, executed or brutally murdered by Serbian paramilitaries in a number of villages within the currently occupied part of the Croatian territory (in the regions of Eastern Slavonia excluding Vukovar; Western Slavonia; Banija; Kordun; Lika and Dalmatia). Additional killings of Croatian civilians (at least 500 victims) occurred in UNPROFOR Sector East (Baranja and Vukovar) and Sector South (Benkovac, Zadar hinterland) after UNPROFOR had taken responsibility in these occupied parts of Croatia.

5. According to the present official data, there were at least 1,851 citizens of Croatia killed in the town of Vukovar, as follows: 590 recorded in the Division of Information and Research, Ministry of Health, as at 6 November 1991; 709 as listed on the "List of identified dead" presented by Yugoslav army pathologists after the occupation of Vukovar; 266 persons executed or murdered after the occupation in Vukovar itself or subsequently in Serbian camps, according to written testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses, and 286 according to the list compiled by grave-diggers from Vukovar. However, since there are still 2,642 missing or disappeared persons from Vukovar (who disappeared after the occupation of Vukovar by the Yugoslav army - 294 of them disappeared directly from Vukovar hospital, as follows: 18 employees of Vukovar hospital, 25 members of hospital assisting personnel,

57 civilians and 194 wounded patients), and we have every reason to believe that most of them were killed, too, we estimate the total number of casualties in Vukovar to be about 4,500 to 5,000 people. About 70 per cent of them were either civilians or members of the civilian defence organization of the town.

6. As a consequence of a number of summary executions and arbitrary mass killings of Croatian civilians and soldiers, jointly committed by Yugoslav army and Serbian paramilitary troops, there are at present a number of mass graves within the occupied part of Croatia (UNPROFOR Sectors East, West, North and South as well as the so-called "pink zones"). The exact number of mass graves and victims of summary executions is still unknown. However, to illustrate the extent and brutality of that kind of war crime, here we offer a concise and selective list of 11 such localities (the probable number of victims murdered and buried at each locality is given in brackets) within the present UNPROFOR Sector "E" only: (i) Ovčara (about 300 victims); (ii) five localities within the town of Vukovar: sports stadium "Sloga" (120 victims), near the shop "Kivi" (about 360 victims), New Cemetry of Vukovar (about 1,200 victims), Old Brickery building at Sajmište (about 250 victims), Gelesova Dol near Petrova Gora (about 70 victims); (iii) Lovas (about 140 victims); (iv) Tovarnik - four mass graves with about 250 victims; (v) Jakobovac (about 300 victims); (vi) Petrovci (16 victims); (vii) Ernestinovo (several mass graves); (viii) Tordinci (208 victims); (ix) Dalj (about 300 victims); (x) Berak (32 victims) and (xi) Bogdanovci-Vukovar line (over 300 persons disappeared in this area).

7. Furthermore, the total number of still missing persons in Croatia (according to the matched and updated lists of the Croatian Red Cross Tracing Service and the Government's Office for the Victims of War, dated 10 February 1994) is 7,827 persons. During the recent action (beginning of 1994) to collect detailed information for tracing missing persons, data were assembled and dossiers completed with all known circumstances of disappearances, witnesses' testimonies and ante-mortem data for 38 per cent of the total number of requests.

8. As at 22 February 1994, the Office for the Victims of the War had recorded 14,000 war invalids, among them 6,000 with serious body impairments, classified according to the strict WHO criteria Furthermore, 97 children with serious bodily impairments have been registered to date.

9. As at 22 February 1993, the Division of Information and Research Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia had recorded 6,660 persons released through exchange from Serbian concentration camps and prisons.

10. According to the results of comprehensive medical examinations, about 90 per cent of all detainees were maltreated and tortured; extensive medical documentation about the victims of torture in detention has been collected. Furthermore, medical institutions of Croatia are in possession of complete documentation on 50 cases of sexual abuse as well as incomplete documentation on an additional 120 cases of sexual abuse.

11. On 25 May 1994, the Office for Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Government of the Republic of Croatia had registered 247,128 displaced persons within Croatia plus 267,138 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e., the total of 514,266 displaced persons and refugees in Croatia.

12. International Educational Development/Humanitarian Law Project appeals to the international community to take adequate and urgent measures to help solve the very serious problems in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The possibility that the war will continue or spread in that area is still very high, because the Serbian population in those regions do not want to return the occupied territories of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but wants them "ethnically clean". The desire for a "Greater Serbia" is still present in Serbian people and by the Governments of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro.